

**MONTREAL CLERICAL ASSOCIATION.**—The monthly meeting of the above association was held at the residence of the Rev. Canon Mills on Monday evening January 7th. The Bishop, Archdeacon Evans, Dr. Norton, Dr. Henderson, Canon Mills, and Revs. R. Lindsay B. D., H. Evans, J. Dixon, T. Everett, L.N. Tacker, J. A. Newham, N.P. Yates, G.O. Troop, E.W. King, E. McManus.

A further discussion took place of a paper on "The word of God in relation to the Church" read by Principal Henderson and partially discussed at a meeting of the association on the 8th ult., and published by request of the members present at that meeting.

The part of the paper which received greatest attention on the present occasion was on the the reason for receiving the word of God as such.

A brief summary of this portion of the paper follows.

"From whom did we receive the word of God and how and when was the canon settled. Why do we receive such and such books and none but them?"

The answer is :

1 We receive the word of God from God Himself through inspired men specially commissioned for the purpose—not from the Church—just as the Israelites of old received revelations from God Himself, through the prophets, and not from the Jewish Church.

2 We receive the Scriptures on the testimony of God from whom we received them. Christ testified directly to the Old Testament scriptures when He was on earth. He testified indirectly through His inspired messengers to the scriptures of the New Testament.

3 We receive them on the testimony of the individuals or the churches to whom they were sent.

4 We receive them on the testimony of the books themselves.

5 We receive them on the testimony of their works.

As the printed paper did not reach the members of the association in time to be read by all before the meeting, the discussion, which was participated in by all present, was not closely confined to the points brought forward by Dr. Henderson, though in the main there was a very decided harmony of opinion.

As gathered from the meeting the reasons for receiving a certain book as the Bible might be thus arranged. We receive the Bible on evidence.

I External. 1 The testimony of history to the fact that the Bible is the word of God.

2 The general effects of the Bible on the world.

3 The adaptability of the Bible to the soul's needs experienced by the individual believer.

II. Internal.

1 The high moral and spiritual character of its religion.

2 Its Prophecies.

3 Its Miracles.

The subject chosen for the next meeting was "Christian Giving" on which a paper is to be prepared by Rev E. McManus.

**COWANSVILLE AND SWEETSBURG.**—Annual Sunday School services were held, Sunday Dec. 23, the children attended in large numbers, and joined heartily in singing the chants and hymns. The Rector, Rev. Mr. Forsey, preached from Prov. 22 : 6, pointing out to parents that correct training of their children was certain to be followed by stability of principle and life in old age, and to obedience to parental commands was right.

Our Christmas Eve service at Sweetsburg, and Christmas morning service at Cowansville, were profitable. The ladies and gentleman interested in Church decoration this year excelled all former efforts. They spent some two weeks preparing, the result is each Church is a picture, with motto, device, and festoon,

they have given rare evidence of taste and devotion; and in honoring God's house they have honored themselves.

Our Sunday school Festival took place at Cowansville on Dec. 27th, and at Sweetsburg on the 28th. Both schools are flourishing, the attendance is good, all debts are paid, and there is money in the treasury. An excellent programme was rendered at each entertainment; at Sweetsburg there was a Christmas tree richly laden with gifts, many were remembered, the Rector among the rest, who received a present in money.

Cowansville Literary Association is prospering. There have been several debates, and, so far, two lectures, one by the Rector on "Uncle Sam's Family Troubles" and the other by Rev. John Ker, of Dunham, on "The story of a sorrowful life."

**MONTREAL.**—A numerously attended meeting of laymen of the Church of England was held Tuesday in the Synod Hall, under the presidency of the Lord Bishop, for the purpose of forming a LAY HELPER'S ASSOCIATION for the Diocese of Montreal, upon similar lines to associations formed in several of the dioceses in England and in that of Quebec. His Lordship was supported by Dean Carmicheal, Revs Canon Empson, Rural Dean Lindsay, and H. J. Evans. Among the laymen present were Dr. L. H. Davidson, Q. C., Messrs. E. E. Shelton, J. W. Marling, H. J. Mudge, W. J. Buchanan, W. Drake, J. W. Mills, N. J. Mudge, J. McDougall, and about fifty others. Mr. J. W. Marling was appointed secretary *pro. tem.* The proposed constitution, which had been prepared by a committee of laymen, and approved by the Clergy and Bishop, was read, and considered clause by clause. The object of the Association is the joining together in one body of all laymen actually engaged in any form of Church work throughout the Diocese of Montreal and for fostering and developing lay help within the diocese. The constitution was after considerable discussion on the various points adopted, and it was arranged that immediate steps be taken to register members, and the meeting then adjourned till the 29th, inst., for the election of officers.

**St. James the Apostle.**—The young ladies of this Church held an "At Home" in the School-room on the 3rd inst. Tea, coffee, cake &c. were dispensed for a small sum; the proceeds to go towards Mr. Massey's Mission. The amount realized was \$56 net. The Cathedral Orchestra played several selections, which added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. Two members of the choir kindly contributed some songs. The Lord Bishop, Canon Ellegood and several of the city clergy were present.

**NOTE.**—Our correspondent to whose report the Rev. Mr. Chambers took exception two weeks ago, sent us a letter for publication in the last number, which came to hand too late; but in it he resents in strong terms the insinuations, motives and charges of officiousness and meddlesomeness made against him; and as we anticipated denies the same. He also states that the information was received from a reliable source in ordinary manner. He repudiates most strongly the insinuation, that he wished to belittle the work of Mr. Chambers' predecessor, of whom and of whose work he speaks most favorably.

We do not think it necessary to publish the letter in full, but give the gist of it for the satisfaction and justification of our correspondent. —Ed.

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO.**

**LEEDS (rear), AND LYNDBURST.**—Besides the ordinary offertory of Christmas Day, which in this Diocese is always given to the clergy, a handsome cutter, a pair of beautiful robes, at a cost of \$52, was presented to the Rector, Rev.

J. W. Forsythe, M. A., by the church people of Lyndhurst, and on the same day a purse of money to Mrs. Forsythe, by the church people of Leeds. Both presents were accompanied by pleasing letters, requesting acceptance of the gifts as a souvenir of the esteem in which the Rector and Mrs. Forsythe were held, and also as a slight acknowledgment of the great service which both had rendered to the cause of God and His Church since they came amongst them about nine months ago.

Fitting reply was sent by the Rector for Mrs. Forsythe and himself.

The children of St. Luke's Church, Lyndhurst, gave an entertainment in the School-house on the 28th ult. They were ably assisted by the members of the choir, and realized the handsome sum of \$22, which is to be applied to the purchasing of papers for the S. scholars and adding a few books to the library. This school is one of five Sunday-schools belonging to this parish.

**MERRICKVILLE AND BURRITT'S RAPIDS.**—Fair congregations assembled on Christmas day in spite of rainy gloomy weather. At Christ Church, Barritt's Rapids, a handsome memorial window erected by Wm. Kidd Esq. in loving memory of Mrs. Kidd lately deceased was placed in position on Christmas Eve.

The work was done by J. C. Spence & Sons, of Montreal with their usual chaste designs.

On the 27th, Dec. Christ Church Sunday school had its annual Christmas entertainment which was a decided success. Miss Mary E. DePencier was presented with a purse of money coupled with an address expressive of appreciation of her services as Organist.

On the 28th, Trinity Church Sunday school, Merrickville, had its annual Festival, a lecture entitled "Max O'Neil's journey from Asia to Europe through Canada" illustrated by powerful lime light views was given by L. O. Armstrong and proved of a high order and afforded much pleasure and instruction to the large audience present.

The number of communicants in this parish on Christmas day was 144. Offertory \$56.00.

**OTTAWA.—St. George's Parish.**—A church family living in the vicinity of Stewarton, observing that not a few children of church parentage were prevented by the distance from attending Sunday-school in the city gathered them together, beginning with 25 or 30, and opened a Sunday-school in the Public School-house. On Christmas night a tree with tea and cake was provided, and old and young were invited. The curate of St. George's, Rev. M. F. Snowden, kindly attended and gave an address. Great satisfaction was felt by the old people, as they are cut off from attending Divine service through being so far from the church, and they realize that this effort promises to end in the establishment almost immediately of fortnightly Sunday services in their midst, and ultimately in the building of a Mission Hall and the formation of a strong Church centre.

**KINGSTON.—St. James'.**—The Christmas' offertory at this church was over \$100.

**ROCHESTERVILLE.**—The Church people here have lately raised \$250 or thereabout by a sale of needlework. They are engaged in a large work, that of providing a much needed commodious church for their rapidly growing congregation. A lot has been purchased at \$3 500, of which some \$800 have already been paid, and they are now trying to create a fund sufficient to meet the balance due on the site and to build the church. The necessity for having a new and large church here is very pressing, if the good work which is going on is not to receive a check. Pretty little St. Paul's Church is no longer equal to the requirements of the congregation. The S. S. children always fill it, and each Sunday before service commences they have to turn out to make room for the